

REMARKS

In the preambles of dependent claims 169-173, “a reactor” has been amended to “a system,” as is recited in the preamble of independent claim 174, from which each of these claims ultimately depends. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Claims 157-174 are pending for examination.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2

Claims 157-174 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

The Patent Office appears to be of the position that the specification only supports a reactor comprising one reaction unit with a surface suitable for cell growth, and does not support a reactor comprising multiple such reaction units. The Patent Office states that “Only one of the reaction units has a surface which is suitable for cell growth, that being unit (16).”

Applicants respectfully disagree with the position of the Patent Office, and note that multiple reaction units (or reaction chambers) may be combined together within a reactor. Applicants note that the specification discloses that a reactor may include one or more reaction units (e.g., as discussed on page 4, lines 11-13, or on page 6, lines 26-28). Multiple reactors may also be combined together in a system, as is discussed on page 12, lines 27-31. Fluid pathways are shown in the figures (e.g., fluid pathway 84 in Fig. 6; see also page 4, lines 11-15), as well as chambers for cell growth (e.g., reaction unit 16 in Fig. 1, includes multiple locations 74; see also Fig. 5 and page 10, lines 5-22). In addition, originally filed claim 33 is generally directed to a plurality of reaction chambers constructed and arranged to operate in parallel, and originally filed claim 1 discloses an inlet and an outlet for a reaction chamber. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 174 is supported by the specification.

In addition, the Patent Office notes that “the reaction units are connectable and detachable.” Although Applicants agree that the reaction units may be connectable and detachable in some cases, Applicants note that the claims do not actually recite that the reaction units are connectable and detachable, and thus, this statement should not be construed to be a limitation of the claims.

The Patent Office states that "Further, claims 168 thru 173 are also confusing and appear not to be supported by the specification." However, the Patent Office did not explain on what basis the claims were found to be confusing or not supported. To the extent this issue has not been already addressed above, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office to clarify this statement, and to specifically point out which of claims 168 through 173 are confusing and/or are not supported by the specification.

The Patent Office notes that there appears to be some confusion between "reactors" "reaction units." To the extent that this is relevant to the preambles of dependent claims 169-173, Applicants have amended the preambles of these claims to address this issue. Otherwise, it is noted that the specification, as noted above, supports a plurality of reaction units, each suitable for cell growth, constructed for the ability to operate in parallel.

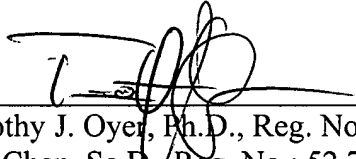
Accordingly, for at least the above-mentioned reasons, it is believed that claims 157-174 are not indefinite, and it is thus respectfully requested these rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this response, that the application is not in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

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